

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission March 3, 2010

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on March 3, 2010, 5:30 p.m. – 7:05 p.m., at City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Don Calender, Tom Catlaw, Pete De Mott, Andy Hall, Kevin Kaesberg, Josephine McNamara, Leonard Montenegro, Joe Pospicil, Lisa Roach, John Sanborn, Jason Short, William Wagner, Michael Wasko

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Maureen Decindis, Joochul Kim, Ira King, Jeffrey Sheppard, Woody Wilson

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absences:

City Staff Present: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist, Greg Jordan, Transit Administrator, 480-858-2094 or greg_jordan@tempe.gov, Sue Taaffe, Community Outreach/Marketing Coordinator, 480-350-8663 or sue_taaffe@tempe.gov

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Kaesberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: February 3, 2010

Commissioner Calender moved that the February 3, 2010 minutes be approved as written. Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion. The motion passed with 11 yes votes and two abstentions as new commission members were not present at the February meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – Transit Fund Financial Update and Development of Service Reductions

Greg Jordan provided an overview of the Transit Fund financial forecast, budget balancing efforts and the process for developing three years of phased reductions beginning July 2010. He described the situation as “not good” much like the general fund due largely to the downturn in local and regional sales tax revenues as well as increasing program costs. Program costs are exceeding revenues by \$18 - \$20 million (depending on the year) and the fund is not sustainable over the long term.

An Ad Hoc Committee of the Transportation Commission was formed in June 2009 in order to comprehensively identify and evaluate potential budget reductions for all components of the Transit Fund. Committee members have looked at opportunities for cost savings, program reductions and revenue enhancement in bus, Orbit and light rail services, facilities, marketing and community outreach, capital projects and staff and support services. Committee members explored aggressive, balanced and conservative (i.e. delayed) approaches to phasing in any changes. They concluded that a balanced approach with equal reductions over fiscal years 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 would be best.

An extensive public and stakeholder involvement process has also been coordinated to ensure residents are kept informed and to establish a sense of what the community believes is most important. There are opportunities to provide input on each of the proposed service cuts through a Transit Funding Priority Survey distributed at each meeting and available online at www.tempe.gov/tim. Thus far, over 250 comments have been received through public meetings and the website. Provided input will assist transit staff in preparing a document prioritizing service reduction options on a scale ranging from least difficult to most difficult. Options include changes in frequency, hours of operation and elimination or restructuring of lower performing routes. Those options identified as most difficult will be programmed for implementation toward the later years of the 3 year phasing plan, allowing more time for additional revenue or alternative budget reduction strategies to be identified or possibly implemented.

Next steps include Round 2 of public involvement meetings, recommendations of \$4-5 million in program/service reductions effective July 2010, additional service reductions ranked for 2011 and 2012, evaluation of additional public input and recommendations for 2010-2011 to be forwarded to Transportation Commission and City Council.

Agenda Item 5 – Selection of Neighbor of the Year Award Winners

Neighborhood Services received five nominations for Neighbor of the Year Awards. All nominees were individuals.

Members shared their input and scores and briefly discussed whether all nominees should receive public recognition. Like last year the decision was made to publicly recognize only those deemed as award winning. There was additional discussion specific to the Chuck Malpede Award, its intended meaning and whether any of the nominations demonstrated a number of years of service, a sustainable effort rather than a one time or shorter duration effort.

Commissioner Wagner moved that Carol Pearson receive the Chuck Malpede Neighbor of the Year Award and that James Neal receive a Neighbor of the Year Award. Commissioner McNamara seconded the motion. The motion passed with six votes in favor, five against and one abstention.

Agenda Item 6 –Discussion of City of Tempe Budget Issues

Chair Kaesberg noted that he requested this item remain on the NAC agenda as a placeholder for the coming months to allow discussion should questions or comments come up during this timeframe. There was a brief exchange regarding whether the City Manager should be invited to the April meeting to present. A couple of commission members attended the public meetings and the information remains the same. The city website has questions and answers from those meetings as well as the budget plan and list of priorities, members were encouraged to look over the materials if they have not already done so to keep informed.

Agenda Item 7 – Discussion of Water Utilities Residential Rates and Billing

Shauna noted that Community Relations staff are working with Water Utilities staff to determine how best to publicize to residents how water rates are set including the three month timeframe of usage.

Agenda Item 8 - 2010 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Planning

Color copies of event brochures were distributed and commissioners were reminded to register themselves for workshops. The event is highlighted in the current water bill, will be advertised in the Arizona Republic, will be featured in press releases distributed to all media, was emailed out to all neighborhood contacts via ListServ and will be promoted with posters in city buildings

and local businesses Staff will discuss event volunteer needs at the April meeting and/or at an Outreach Committee meeting prior to the next Commission meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports and Consideration of Minutes

- A. Codes Committee** – No meeting was held since the last commission meeting.
- B. Housing Committee** – No meeting was held since the last commission meeting.
- C. Outreach Committee** – No meeting was held since the last commission meeting.

Proposed Agenda Items for April 7, 2010 Meeting

- 2010 Neighborhood workshop and Awards Planning
- City of Tempe Budget
- Committee Reports
- Tempe Involving the Public (TIP) Update
- South Corridor Study Update

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Prepared by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director
Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist